US ISSN 0010-1443

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 4411 Huntsville, Alabama 35815 J. C. Spilman, Editor

Volume 29, No.1 April, 1989 Serial No. 81

New
WASHINGTON DOUBLE HEAD CENT
Obverse

Vlack Variety 29

Discovered by Mike Ringo

(TN-120)

A New Washington Double Head Cent Obverse **(TN-120)**
from Mike Ringo; Albany, New York

A second variety of the Washington Double Head Cent (Baker 6) has recently been found and will be designated Vlack 29-Y. The most noticeable difference between this new piece and the previously known examples of Vlack 28-Y is the flat rims, giving it the appearance of being in lower relief. In addition, the planchet is larger (28mm. versus 27mm.), and the edge is rounded rather than squared off. These characteristics all point to the piece being struck out of collar on a planchet without upset rims. The new variety is also slightly heavier than average, at 131.8 grains.

The actual die differences are more subtle: the lower central point of the star below the bust points between two beads, instead of at a bead, as on the 28-Y. The centers of the two right legs on the N's each points at a bead; they point between beads on the 28-Y. The cord above the epaulet an the new obverse is longer, and the ends curve outward, with a triangular projection inside, On the 28-Y, this cord is shorter, with straight ends, and there is a bead inside it. The bow in the hair is detached from the braid, and the frill on the coat is made up of two separate sections.

29 - Y

The piece shares the same reverse with the 28-Y, though in a somewhat earlier die state: the stippling on the frill and the details of the bow are sharper. Therefore, the 29-Y was probably produced before the 28-Y; it is likely that the rims were raised to help prevent excessive wear, and it is also consistent that a non-collared issue would proceed a collared one. Thus, it would seem possible that this new variety could have been a trial striking, or at best a very limited production issue.

My thanks to Eric P. Newman for the loan of his 28-Y and confirmation of the variety.

Variety 28
Star points
at bead.

Variety 29
Star points
between beads.

The Usefulness of X-Ray Diffraction in Numismatic Analysis **(TN-121)**
by Michael Hodder; Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

In recent years several analytical techniques have been applied in numismatic research to answer questions regarding the metallic composition, surface structures, corrosion products, and methods of manufacture of coins. The most commonly used techniques today, and the ones we are most familiar with in the field of early American numismatics, are x-ray fluorescence and x-ray spectrography. These tests are usually applied to determine the surface metallic composition of coins, and are very similar in their limitations and results. Both methods involve directing a beam of excited electrons at the surface of a coin. The electrons strike the atoms of the various elements that make up the coin, giving rise to x-rays which are emitted at wavelengths characteristic of the elements struck. The x-rays are then counted and the totals are converted into readings of the proportional elemental make-up of the coin's surface. Since the original electron beam is limited in its intensity, and the coin itself is dense, the readings of metallic content are valid only to a depth of 4 to 6 microns.

Neutron activation analysis, involving irradiating the whole coin in a nuclear reactor, subjects the specimen to sufficient radiation to yield a valid reading of the entire coin's elemental make-up. Residual radiation from the process disappears in a matter of hours (days for silver coins or coins with high metallic silver content). This technique is the most useful as it is the most thorough, but it is difficult to obtain since it requires the use of a reactor.

No test of the elemental composition of a coin yields results that are necessarily diagnostic of authenticity, although some results can disprove it. For example, a silver NE sixpence which appeared to be a struck specimen from previously unreported punches was tested by x-ray spectrography. The surface composition of the coin revealed it to be 90.2-91.7% silver, 4.4-4.9% copper, 0.13-0.15% aluminum, the balance being trace elements. The presence of aluminum was anomalous, but the complete absence of traces of gold showed that the silver used to make the piece was of modern origin. Seventeenth century silver, coins and other objects, always shows traces of gold since the silver was refined by cupellation, which cannot reduce gold. The high copper content was added to increase the strength of the alloy.

On the other hand, x-ray spectrographic tests of the INIMICA TYRANNIS/1785 Small circle CONFEDERATIO copper ex Garrett:1330 and the 1787 EXCELSIOR/1785 Small circle CONFEDERATIO muling ex Norweb:2627 showed them to have the same elemental composition. We know now that while the former is genuine, the latter is a skillful cast which was made in the 19th century, possibly using metal from a melted down contemporary early American copper coin. A prudent forger will go so far as to use a genuine coin as the flan for his "creation", first planing away evidence of the original type. Carl Becker, the great forger of Greek and Roman coins, used authentic hosts as planchets for his own work, and these are still occasionally offered for sale, unwittingly, as genuine.

There is one technique that offers some additional scientific evidence for the authenticity of a coin, but it is little known and nearly as difficult to obtain as neutron activation analysis. This is non-destructive x-ray diffraction using the Laue back-reflection technique. In this method, a beam of x-rays is focused through the center of a special photographic plate onto a coin's surface. The x-rays are diffracted by the metallic crystals in the coin's surface back onto the film, thereby exposing it. Exposure time is between 15 and 30 minutes. No residual radiation remains, of course.

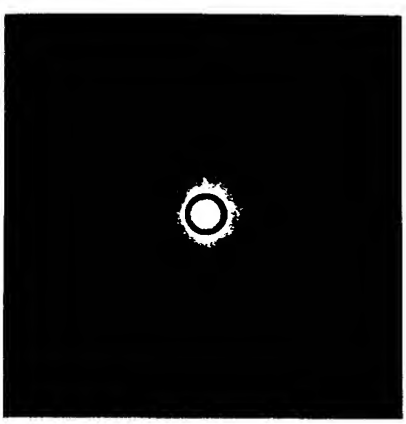
The developed film print shows a circular outline composed of bright white spots (in the case of copper coins, there are two outlines), each spot representing a single grain which reflected the x-rays back onto the film. The larger the crystals in the surface of the coin (to a depth of about 25 microns) the larger, and fewer, the spots on the film. Conversely, the smaller the crystals the smaller, and more numerous, the exposed spots on the film.

A Laue photograph of a copper coin typically shows a very bright center spot surrounded by a hazy corona and two bright outer rings. The central brightness results from the intense exposure of the film to the beam of x-rays passing through it. The corona is also an artifact of the passage of the x-rays through the film. The bright outer rings are formed by the x-rays which have been diffracted from the crystalline structure of the coin. The appearance of these rings ranges from a uniform intensity unbroken anywhere along their circumferences, to rings composed of a broken series of discrete, intensely white, spots.

The finer the coin's crystalline structure the smaller are the crystals that have formed during its manufacture, and therefore, the more crystals that are present to diffract the x-rays back onto the photographic plate. The coarser the coin's crystalline structure the larger the crystals, and consequently, the fewer there are to diffract the x-rays. The implications for coin authentication are obvious.

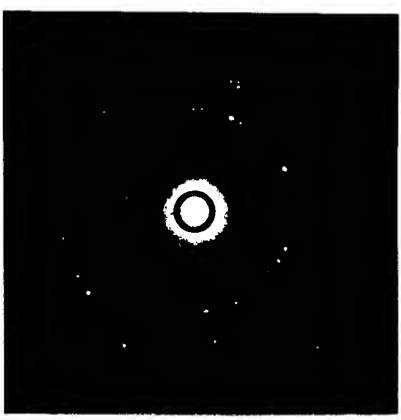
A struck coin typically shows a fine grained structure in the Laue photographs, since its surface has deformed under the heat of striking and the crystalline structure has been mechanically compressed, analogous to hot working the metal. Its crystalline structure is composed of many small crystals, all of which will diffract the x-rays onto the photographic plate. A coin cast in a mold cools slowly, allowing the growth of large crystals of various sizes. The larger crystals will diffract x-rays, but since there are fewer than in a struck coin, there will be fewer to diffract the x-rays. In the Laue photograph a cast coin will show several large, white spots intermixed with smaller ones.

Two representative Laue photographs accompany this article. The first is of the reverse of the 1792 Birch cent, variety with two stars in the edge lettering, that was sold as lot 3394 of the Norweb Collection sale. The photograph clearly shows two continuous concentric circles surrounding the brightly exposed center spot. It is a typical picture of a



1792 Birch Cent (One Cent Side)

Variety with two stars in edge device. Ex-Norweb:3394. The two concentric rings indicate its copper composition. No discrete white spots are visible indicating the surface structure to be composed of fine grains.



"Vermont Ryder-40" -- A Cast Counterfeit

The two concentric rings indicate its copper composition. The bright discrete white spots were caused by X-rays diffracted from large grains in the surface structure.

fine grained surface structure, as expected from a genuine, struck specimen. The second is of the obverse of what appeared to be a newly discovered example of Vermont Ryder-40. The photograph shows two concentric rings around the central spot, composed of many discrete, high-intensity, exposed spots. This photograph is a classic example of a coin whose surface is composed of large grains, and is very unlike the picture of a struck coin. Further examination of this coin led to the conclusion that it was a cast made from two different coins (VT R-40 is a muling).

The Laue back reflection technique of x-ray diffraction can be a useful tool when considering the authenticity of a coin. However, there are several qualifications that need to be kept in mind when applying it. In the first place, the beam of x-rays is directed onto a very small portion of the surface of the coin and penetrates only to a depth of about 25 microns. A single Laue test is insufficient in itself to characterize the structure of the entire surface of the coin in question. Ideally, Laue photographs of 20 to 30 points, on both sides and including the edge, should be taken and their results averaged, if the true grain structure of the coin's surface is to be characterized. Secondly, an electrotype copy will also yield a Laue photograph showing fine grained structure, so the technique by itself is not an absolutely reliable diagnostic tool for authentication. Thirdly, unless the surface of the coin is cleaned down to the bare metal, the Laue photograph will be revealing the surface structure of any corrosion products on it as much as it will picture the crystalline structure of the coin below. This can lead to photographs showing the presence of both very fine and very large grains in the surface structure. Numerous Laues, taken at many different positions, can average out the effects of surface deposits, if the coin cannot be cleaned.

Finally, modern casting techniques, which borrow from industrial technology, create copies whose crystalline structures mimic those of a struck coin. Coins made by centrifugal or chill casting have homogeneous macro structures and compact micro structures, and their Laue photographs have all the characteristics of a fine grained struck coin. When these casting techniques are used, x-ray diffraction is useless as a tool against the counterfeiter.

Over the past 18 months some fifteen different coins have been examined using the Laue back reflection x-ray diffraction technique. These included mostly early American issues in copper, but the NE sixpence described above was also tested, as was an 1860 Deseret Assay Office gold $5 piece. Each was also tested for surface metallic composition by x-ray fluorescence. The results of the x-ray diffraction and fluorescence tests are listed below.

Results of X-Ray Diffraction and Fluorescence Tests

Specimen	Metallic Composition	Surface Structure
1. 1785 Confederatio, Large circle/1786 Heraldic eagle. ANS 1942.24.1. One of two known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
2. America Inimica Tyrannis/ 1785 Confederatio, Large circle. ANS 1941.1473.3. One of four traced.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*

3. Americana Inimica Tyrannis/ 1785 Confederatio, Small circle. Ex Garrett:1330. At least four known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
4. 1785 Confederatio, Large circle/1786 Heraldic eagle. Private owner. Second of two known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
5. 1785 Confederatio, Small circle/1787 Excelsior. Ex Norweb:2627. Sole specimen known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
6. 1787 Excelsior, Transposed Arrows. Ex Norweb:2683. One of six known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine Grain.*
7. Americana Inimica Tyrannis/ 1785 Confederatio, Small circle. Private owner. Second of at least four known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
8. Washington/1785 Confederatio, Large circle. Private owner. One of seven known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
9. America Inimica Tyrannis/1785 Confederatio, Large circle. Private owner. Second of four known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
10.1786 Immunis Columbia/1785 Confederatio, Large circle. Private owner. Unique.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*
11.1792 Small copper cent, no silver plug. Ex Norweb:3393. One of seven known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces. No AR.*	*Fine Grain.*
12.1792 Birch cent, two stars on edge. Ex Norweb:3394. One of six known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Fine Grain.*
13.1788 Vermont. Ryder-40. Private owner. One of two known.	*CU 97-98% Balance: traces.*	*Large Grain.*

14. 1652 NE Sixpence. New punches. Private owner. Unique.	*AR 90-91% Balance: traces. No AU.*	*Fine Grain.*
15. 1860 Deseret Assay Office gold $5. Private owner. Many known.	*AU 84-85% AR 10-11% CU 1.0-1.7% Balance:traces.*	*Fine & Large Grain.*

Of the 15 coins tested by x-ray fluorescence and x-ray diffraction, numbers 1, 4, 5, 13, and 14 were found to be counterfeits. Of these, the NE 6d was the only die struck piece, the others being casts. All the casts had been manufactured using the older, slow cooling casting method; none were centrifugal or chill casts.

The Laue readings of a combination of fine and large grain structures on numbers 1, 4, and 5 are probably explained by the presence of corrosion products at the locations of x-ray impact. Number 13 showed the classic grain structure of a cast coin. The fine grain structure seen on number 14 is evidence of its being a struck counterfeit.

None of these 15 coins was cleaned in any way before testing. Consequently, the Laue readings on the genuine coins of a mixture of large and fine grains in their structures (excepting numbers 6, 11, and 12) may be explained by x-rays diffracting off large grain corrosion products, such as red cuprite. In the case of number 15, a gold coin, the Laue reading of fine and large grains probably reflects the different grain sizes of the three major elements composing it.

In conclusion, the Laue back reflection x-ray diffraction technique can be a useful tool in the authentication of coins, but only when used in conjunction with other tests, such as x-ray fluorescence or photo-optical comparison. Interpretation of Laue photographs requires some familiarity with the technique and the results of similar tests on other coins. The presence of an exclusively large grain structure appears to be diagnostic of a casting, but the presence of an exclusively fine grain one is not necessarily indicative of a struck coin. The coin's surface must be studied under high magnification, searching for macro structures such as dendrites formed during the cooling of a cast or metal flow resulting from striking under pressure, before the Laue photographs can properly be interpreted. Dendritic structures on the surfaces of cast blanks are probably obliterated following the surface heating of the blank during striking, and the Laue technique may not correctly detect these. In the final analysis, the skill and experience of the numismatist, aided by scientific tests such as described above, are the best tests of authenticity.

DAVID BROOKS - MACHIN'S MILLS PARTNER

by Gary A. Trudgen

One of the more interesting state coinage operations that was formed before the Federal Government was established is that known today as Machin's Mills. Located in New York State, the Machin's Mills coinage firm tried, but failed, to obtain a grant to coin copper for the state. Consequently they joined in partnership with the Vermont coinage firm, and in addition to the authorized Vermont coppers they also coined their own unauthorized versions of several types of coppers then in circulation. An aura of mystery surrounds Machin's Mills today, and the coppers they produced are enthusiastically collected and studied.

David Brooks was one of the six Machin's Mills copartners. Knowledge of the people involved in any coinage operation can add to the enjoyment of forming a specific collection. With this in mind, the following biographical sketch of David Brooks is presented.

David Brooks
Maria Brooks
Oil on canvas - 17 1/4" x 14"
Courtesy - State University College at Genesco, NY

It is always interesting to be able to gaze upon the physical appearance of the individual whose life is the subject of study. Fortunately, David Brooks and his wife, Maria, had their portraits painted, and these paintings have survived the ages (1). Little is known of the portraits, such as the date when they were painted or who the artist was. However, based upon the apparent age of the subjects and their style of dress suggests that the portraits were painted in the mid-1820s. At this time David Brooks was in semiretirement and living in New York City.

David Brooks was born in the first half of 1756, the third son of James Brooks. James Brooks was a yeoman or small farmer who had purchased 175 acres of land on March 20, 1730 in the Town of Tinicum, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (2). David grew up on his father's farm and attended the public schools. He had three brothers and three sisters (3).

When the Revolutionary War began, young David Brooks supported the patriotic cause. He entered into the war in the summer of 1776 as a lieutenant in a Pennsylvania regiment of the Flying Camp. After the British evacuated Boston, Commander-in-Chief George Washington proposed that a mobile strategic reserve be established in order to defend widely scattered areas. This reserve was called the "flying camp" and was composed of approximately 10,000 militia from Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The Flying Camp was established in July 1776 and lasted only until December of that year.

David Brooks was among the first quota furnished by his state, and he apparently served in Colonel Baxter's Bucks County regiment (4).

His unit was ordered to march to Fort Washington, located on the northern tip of Manhattan Island. At this time the Americans had officially declared their independence from England, and the war was going badly with the loss of New York City to the British. Fort Washington (located at today's West 184th Street) was a crude, pentagonal earthwork that lacked most of the features needed to resist siege and attack. Located on a densely wooded plateau, it had been laid out by Rufus Putnam and erected in July 1776 by the 3rd and 5th Pennsylvania battalions (5). On the day of the attack, November 16, 1776, Brooks' regiment was located on the Harlem River side at Laurel Hill, about half a mile east of Fort Washington. After spirited action, Colonel Stirling of the 42nd Highlanders captured Colonel Baxter's position. Baxter was killed, and David Brooks was made prisoner. The action continued, but finally the fort fell and most of the Americans (2800) were captured. The prisoners were marched to New York City and paraded near the Jews Burying Ground (the present Chatham Square). For the next 18 months David Brooks was held captive in and around New York City. In a letter written to the New York Society of the Cincinnati, he states that "...our Regiment was annihilated - Our men having all perished with cold & hunger in the prisons of New York in the winters of 1776 & 1777."

On May 8, 1778 David Brooks was exchanged along with a number of other officers. He immediately returned to the army and accepted a staff appointment as Assistant Clothier General (6). He was promoted to the rank of Colonel. For a period of time his commanding officer was General James Wilkinson, who earned himself the reputation of being a scoundrel. Wilkinson was forced to resign from the Clothier's department on March 27, 1781 because of irregularities in his accounts (7).

General James Wilkinson
Artist - Charles Willson Peale, 1797
Courtesy - Independence National Historical Park

Brooks was stationed in Newburgh, New York. Here he occupied a building on the clothing storehouse lot which was on the brow of the hill above Colden's Gore. He relates that here he was often visited by General James Clinton's son DeWitt, who later became a governor of the state (8). He served in this department until the end of the war when he was discharged on November 3, 1783. At this time he received a statement from General Washington that he had performed his duties to Washington's entire satisfaction.

When the Continental Army was about to be disbanded, Major General Henry Knox obtained Washington's approval to form a society of officers. On May 13, 1783 in a meeting at General Steuben's Headquarters, near Fishkill, N.Y., the Society of the Cincinnati was formed. David Brooks became a charter member. The Society's stated purposes were to promote national unity and honor, to perpetuate the brotherhood of American officers, and to help those officers and their families who might need assistance.

After the war, instead of returning to his native state of Pennsylvania, David Brooks settled in New York City. He studied law and was admitted to the New York State bar. Next, he ran for

political office and was elected to the New York State Assembly. As a representative from the City and County of New York he served in the Assembly during the years 1787 and 1788. During his first year in the Legislature, the Assembly met in New York City from January 12 through April 21.

As a junior assemblyman David Brooks witnessed the historic selection of New York's delegates to the Constitutional Convention, which was held later that year in Philadelphia. In the Assembly he was busily involved with a number of diverse petitions and bills (9). During this 10th session of the Legislature there was considerable interest in regulating the circulation of copper coin and the establishment of a copper coinage in the state. Significantly, David Brooks was right in the middle of this copper coinage activity. The Assembly received no less than five petitions from individuals seeking a copper coinage grant from the state (10). Two of these petitions were from David Brooks' future copartners at Machin's Mills - James F. Atlee and Thomas Machin. Four of the five petitions were referred to David Brooks for investigation. Brooks was also very much involved with the preparation of a bill to regulate the circulation of copper coin. On March 3 he brought in a report from his committee stating that they were "...at a loss to determine the extent of the intended regulations, whether it was only to ascertain the value of pieces now in circulation, or was meant to extend to a new coinage..." They reported on the various sorts of copper coin then in circulation within the state and then calculated the large loss to the state and the likewise large profit to the coiner for each type of copper coin.

Alexander Hamilton
Courtesy - Independence National Historical Park

John Lansing, Jr.
Artist - Ezra Ames, 1829
Owner - Mr. Francis S. Crowell

On March 15, Alexander Hamilton, David Brooks, and John Lansing were appointed to a committee that was to "prepare and bring in a bill to establish a Coinage of Copper in this state and to regulate the value of copper coin now in circulation." Approximately three weeks later, on Saturday April 7, David Brooks brought from this committee into the Assembly a bill titled "An act for regulating the value of copper coin within this state." The intent to establish a copper coinage, as per the committee's instructions, is mysteriously missing and no further reference is made in the Assembly Journal to such a coinage. It seems that David Brooks would have favored a state coinage because he was undoubtedly at this time involved with Thomas Machin and the others in the formation of their coinage firm. Of the other two members of the committee, John Lansing should have favored a coinage, but Alexander Hamilton would have been strongly against it. Lansing was a political ally of Governor George Clinton. Clinton was an opponent of the Constitution and would have favored any legislation, such as their own coinage, that would increase the power of the state government. Hamilton was a zealous Federalist who favored a strong federal government and therefore he would have opposed the state coinages. For whatever reasons, during this three week period, New York State chose not to issue their own copper coinage.

On April 9th and 12th a committee of the whole house debated the bill titled "An act for regulating the value of copper coin in this state." Amendments were made and the title altered to "An act to regulate the circulation of copper coin in this state." The bill was engrossed and passed on Friday April 13. The bill reduced the value of lawful coppers in New York by 30 percent. 20 coppers were now equal to one shilling, instead of 14. Interestingly, David Brooks, who had been at the center of the coinage legislation activity, was absent from the Assembly from April 11 until the Assembly adjourned on April 21 (11). Thus, he was not involved in the April 12th debate and the April 13th passage of the coinage regulation bill that he had helped to prepare.

During the Revolutionary War, while David Brooks was stationed at Newburgh, N.Y., he apparently befriended Captain Thomas Machin. Captain Machin had also been stationed in the Newburgh area for most of the war. Initially, Machin was the engineer responsible for placing obstructions in the Hudson River to prevent the British from sailing up the river. Later, in 1779, he joined the campaigns against the Indians on the New York frontier. During the final years of the war he was a recruitment officer.

On April 18, 1787, in what would be considered an unethical action today, David Brooks joined in copartnership with Thomas Machin and four others to establish a manufacturing firm to coin money (12). The coining facility, or mint, was placed in Thomas Machin's mills, which were located just west of Newburgh, N.Y. on the eastern shore of Orange Lake. However, with the recent action of the New York Legislature in which David Brooks had played an active roll, the hope of obtaining a coinage grant from New York State was very unlikely. Thus, the new firm quickly allied themselves with Reuben Harmon who operated a coinage firm in Rupert, Vermont. Harmon held a coinage grant from the Republic of Vermont and was in desperate need of the die cutting services that Machin's firm could provide. The comprehensive indenture that bound the two firms together is dated June 7, 1787.

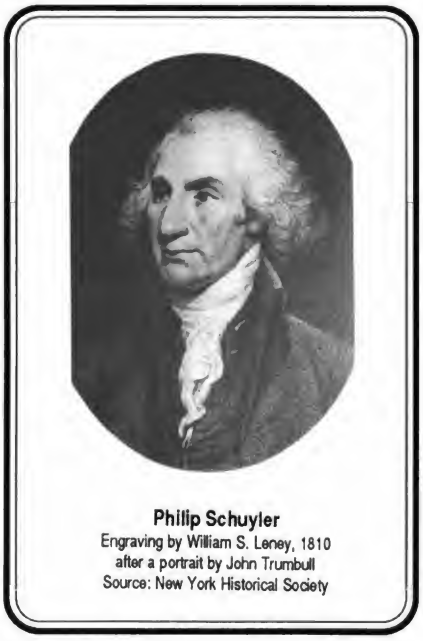
David Brooks, lawyer, politician, and businessman, now at the age of 31 turned his thoughts towards marriage. On September 17, 1787 he wed eighteen year old Maria Mallam Neil. The ceremony took place at the home of her father-in-law, Colonel Samuel Hay, in the town of Acquackanock, New Jersey. Acquackanock, now chiefly the town of Passaic, is a few miles north of Newark. Colonel Hay was originally from Pennsylvania and had served in the Revolutionary War. He was with General "Mad Anthony" Wayne when the Americans retook Stony Point, New York on the night of July 16, 1779. The ceremony was performed by the eminent Rev. Alexander McWhorter from the First Presbyterian Church of Newark. McWhorter was an avid patriot during the Revolutionary War and was know as a man of cool deliberation and sound judgement.

Alexander McWhorter, D.D. (1734-1807)
Painting by James Sharples ca. 1795-1800
Source: New York Historical Society

David and Maria Brooks had at least six children - five sons and one daughter (13). Of their offspring, James Gordon Brooks became the most prominent. A biographical sketch of his life appears in the appendix.

Shortly after his marriage, David Brooks along with James Grier and John Grier, purchased land in Dutchess County, New York. The deed, dated September 25, 1787, was for a lot of land located at Redhook in the Town of Rhinebeck. The land was purchased from Anthony and Mary Hoffman and was adjacent to the Hoffman's store house near the Hudson River. James Grier was also one of David Brooks copartners in their newly established coining firm located at Thomas Machin's mills near Newburgh. John Grier was probably the brother of James. Like David Brooks, both John and James Grier had fought in the American Revolution.

David Brooks served his second term in the New York State Assembly in 1788. That year the Assembly met in Dutchess County at Poughkeepsie from January 9 through March 22. As previously noted, Brooks was again a representative from the City and County of New York. However, sometime after the Assembly adjourned in 1788, he moved to the Town of Rhinebeck in Dutchess County and he probably settled on the lot of land that he co-purchased in Redhook. The 1790 New York census lists him as "head of family," living in Rhinebeck Town.



Philip Schuyler
Engraving by William S. Leney, 1810
after a portrait by John Trumbull
Source: New York Historical Society

After an interlude of five years, Brooks was again elected to the New York State Assembly. This time as a representative from Dutchess County, he served three successive terms during the years 1794, 1795, and 1796. During his second term as a representative from Dutchess County, the Legislature passed an act titled "An act for the better support of the Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga Indians..." This act appointed David Brooks, John Cantine, Philip Schuyler, and John Richardson as commissioners to represent the state. On September 15, 1795 the commissioners signed a treaty with the authorized agents of the Oneida Indians (14). The Oneida Indians agreed to cede part of their reservation for the sum of $2952, an annuity of $2952, and the conditional sale of other parts of the reservation at the rate of $3 annually per each 100 acres. The tract of land purchased from the Oneidas was sold at auction to settlers in 1797 and became part of the Town of Vernon, located near Utica, N.Y. Also, during the year 1795, David Brooks was appointed first Judge of Dutchess County, an office which he held until 1807.

In 1796 Brooks entered into the national political arena when he was elected to the Fifth Federal Congress as a Representative from Dutchess County, N.Y. To obtain this office he defeated incumbent Theodorus Bailey, a Democrat who held this seat during the Third and Fourth Congresses. The Fifth Congress was held from March 4, 1797 to March 3, 1799 in Philadelphia, PA. under the presidency of John Adams (15). While in Congress he was concerned with several diverse subjects. A few examples are: a bill for the protection of US trade; a bill for raising additional corps of artillery; a bill for purchase of cannon; stamp duties; and relations with France. He ran for re-election to the Sixth United States Congress in 1798; however, he was defeated by his old political foe, Theodorus Bailey. Determined not to easily give up, he ran again in 1800, but the outcome was the same as in 1798. After two defeats for re-election to Congress, he called it quits and was satisfied with being the Judge of Dutchess County.

Sometime after his son James G. Brooks was born in 1801 he moved his family to Poughkeepsie, N.Y. In 1807 he was appointed County Clerk of Dutchess County, an office he held for three separate periods (16). As County Clerk his duties were to keep the county records, and

act as Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and Clerk of the Oyer and Terminer. Also, during his tenure as County Clerk he was elected again to the New York State Assembly. He served his sixth term in 1810, again as a representative from Dutchess County. Around 1820 David Brooks moved again. This time back to New York City where he was appointed an officer in the United States Customs Service, a post which he held until his death (17).

On August 30, 1838, at the age of 82, David Brooks died at his home in New York City (18). He was interred at the Marble Cemetery in Manhattan (19). His wife, Maria, survived him by several years. The August 30 issue of the *New York Evening Post* published the following obituary notice.

DIED

> This morning, Colonel DAVID BROOKS, of the Revolutionary army, aged 82 years. His friends and those of his son, James G. Brooks, and son-in-law Frederick D. Priest, are requested to attend his funeral tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock from his late residence, No. 48 Harrison St.
>
> The members of the Society of the Cincinnati, and officers of the Custom House, are also respectfully invited to attend without further invitation.

As we have seen, David Brooks was a prominent and respected community leader. Likewise, the biographical studies of his coinage firm copartners, Thomas Machin and James Giles (20), also show these men to have been highly respected citizens. Naturally the question arises as to why these responsible men became involved in the unauthorized manufacture of copper coins.

In order to correctly answer this question, eighteenth century values must be understood. Two hundred years ago in the English society, copper coins were not considered to be real money because their metal value was substantially less than the face value. This was not so with silver and gold coins, They were minted so that the metal value equaled the face value and the minting expenses were paid by taxes. The private coining of copper was considered a necessary evil because it often supplied the small change needs. Thus, the laws were lenient with respect to copper coinage and the authorities often overlooked the private coinage of copper.

When Machin and his associates failed to obtain a coinage grant from New York State they quickly merged with the Vermont coinage firm who held the newly issued eight year grant from Vermont. While the merged corporation seeked other coinage grants, for economic reasons the newly constructed coinage facilities at Machin's Mills could not be allowed to sit idle. Thus, probably under the lead of James Atlee, they began production of their version of some of the copper coins then in circulation. We point our finger at James Atlee because he had previously cut dies for unauthorized coppers while he was in New York City. Nevertheless, his copartners probably approved of this action because of the status of copper money in the eighteenth century.

David Brooks' signature from the Machin's Mills Indenture dated April 18, 1787

APPENDIX

JAMES GORDON BROOKS
(Most prominent son of David and Maria Brooks)

Son of David and Maria Brooks, born at Redhook, New York on September 3, 1801. He attended Union College in Schenectady, New York and was graduated in the class of 1818. Union College was chartered in 1795 and is one of the country's oldest nondenominational colleges. After graduating from Union College, James studied law with Mr. Justice Emott of Poughkeepsie, New York. Although he devoted six or seven years to the study of law he never applied for admission to the bar. As early as 1817 he had begun to publish verse and prose in periodicals, and in 1819 he adopted the pen name "Florio." In 1823 he moved to New York City and became the literary editor of the M*inerva*, a literary and scientific journal. Later, in 1827, he became an editor of the *Morning Courier*, an influential Democratic paper which strongly supported Andrew Jackson.

On January 23, 1829 he married Mary Elizabeth Aiken of Poughkeepsie, New York. She was also a poet and wrote under the name of "Norma." They collected their poems in a volume titled *The Rivals of Este, and Other Poems*, which was published in 1829. James and Mary Brooks moved to Winchester, Virginia in 1830 where he became editor of the *Republican*, a political and literary gazette. In 1838 they returned to New York State and settled in Albany. James edited the *Albany Advertiser* until he got into a dispute with the Van Rensselaers, who owned the paper. At only 39 years of age, he died at the old Franklin House in Albany on February 20, 1841. His remains were interred at Troy, New York. He was survived by his wife and a daughter.

NOTES

(1). The portraits of David and Maria Brooks are privately owned by a prominent family in Geneseo, N.Y. Photos of the portraits were published in 1974 in an exhibition catalog titled *Early Arts in the Genesee Valley*. This catalog was produced by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

(2). The wife of James Brooks is not named in any of the documentation that I have. James' will is dated November 13, 1777 and was probated on December 22, 1794. When he died he gave his farm to his sons. They sold the farm on May 17, 1798 to James Carrel, a blacksmith from Tinicum.

(3). David Brooks' brothers were: Joseph, Benjamin, and John Thomas. His sisters were: Mary Melalin, Margaret Momullern, and Sarah.

(4). The sources that I have located on David Brooks' military service do not give the name of his commanding officer. However, the only Flying Camp troops posted at Fort Washington were Colonel Baxter's militia from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

(5). There is a disagreement between the sources as to which military unit David Brooks initially served . John Schuyler's *Society of the Cincinnati in New York* states that he was in Colonel John Shee's 3rd Pennsylvania Continental Infantry. This appears to be incorrect. David Brooks is not listed in the roster of Shee's officers. Since he was from Bucks County it is reasonable to assume that he would join a Bucks County unit, such as Colonel Baxter's

militia. Also, a primary source (National Archives) states that he was in the "first quota" furnished (summer 1776), which coincides nicely with the establishment of the Flying Camp. Shee's 3rd Pennsylvania Battalion was formed on December 9, 1775.

(6). The responsibilities of the Clothier General Department were: Furnish estimates of the clothing required by the army; Receive all clothing supplies from domestic and overseas sources; Superintend distribution of the clothing supply to the state clothiers.

(7). James Wilkinson was born in 1757 at Benedict, Maryland. Initially in the American Revolution he served with credit; however, when he dallied in informing Congress of Gates' victory at Saratoga and brought the Conway Cabel to a head with his gossip, he became unpopular. He threatened to fight duels with Generals Gates and Alexander and began to drink in excess. Nevertheless he was appointed Clothier General on July 24, 1779, which brought out another of his vices - greed for money. After the war his intrigues continued when he became involved in the Spanish Conspiracy and then the Burr Conspiracy. In the War of 1812 he was promoted to Major General but was soon relieved of command when he mishandled the northen campaign. He died in 1825.

(8). DeWitt's uncle, George Clinton, was the first governor of New York State.

(9). A few random examples of the bills that he was concerned with are:

> "An act for the better extinguishing of Fires in the City and County of New York;"
>
> "An act for regulating the Fees of the several Officers and Ministers of the Courts of Justice, within this State;"
>
> and "An act for the Relief of Samuel Broome and Jeremiah Platt."

The last bill listed is of a side interest to numismatists. Broome and Platt were in the mercantile business and operated stores in both New York City and New Haven, Connecticut. James Jarvis, the Connecticut coiner, was married to Broome's daughter. After Jarvis had obtained a federal contract to coin FUGIO cents, Samuel Broome illegally used federal copper to strike over 3 million Connecticut coppers while Jarvis was in Europe.

(10). The copper coinage petitions that are recorded in the 1787 New York Assembly Journal are as follows.

Friday February 2: A petition of James F. Atlee, relative to the coinage of copper, was read, and referred to Mr. Doughty, Mr. E. Clark, and Mr. Taylor.

Monday February 5: A petition of Gerardus Duyckinck, junior, praying an exclusive appointment for the coinage of copper in this state (if such coinage shall be established) was read and referred to Mr. Brooks, Mr. Galatian, and Mr. Duboys.

Monday February 12: The several petitions of John Bailey and Ephraim Brasher, relative to the Coinage of Copper within the state, were read, and referred to Mr. Brooks, Mr. Galatian, and Mr. Duboys.

Friday February 16: A petition of Daniel Van Voorhis and William Coley, relative to the Coinage of Copper, under the direction of this state, was read, and referred to Mr. Brooks, Mr. Galatian, and Mr. Duboys.

Saturday March 3: A petition of Thomas Machin, relative to the Coinage of Copper in this state, was read, and referred to Mr. Brooks, Mr. Duboys, Mr. Doughty, Mr. E. Clark, and Mr. Taylor.

(11). This conclusion is gleaned from the Assembly voting record during this period.

(12). The other four partners were James F. Atlee, Samuel Atlee, James Giles, and James Grier. The original indenture which legally bound the six copartners together survives today and is in the custody of the American Numismatic Society.

(13). **Sons of David and Maria Brooks:**

William Mallam Brooks - He was christened on January 3, 1791 at the Reformed Church in the Town of Linlithgo, Columbia County, New York.

David Brooks 2nd - He was christened on September 9, 1792 at the Reformed Church in the Town of Linlithgo, Columbia County, New York. He probably died very young.

Daniel Neil Brooks - He was christened on January 3, 1796 at the Reformed Church in the Town of Linlithgo, Columbia County, New York.

David Brooks 3rd - He was christened on November 15, 1796 at Red Church in the Town of Tivoli, Dutchess County, New York. In 1815 he graduated from Union College located in Schenectady, New York. He married Frances S. Morris of Utica, New York on January 10, 1822. He was a lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of the U.S. Infantry when he died on May 16, 1827 at Fort Mackinac, Michigan.

James Gordon Brooks - He was born on September 3, 1801 at Redhook, New York. He married Mary Elizabeth Aiken of Poughkeepsie, New York on January 23, 1829. He became a well known editor and poet before dying in Albany, New York on February 20, 1841. (See Appendix).

Daughter of David and Maria Brooks:

Eliza M. Brooks - She married Frederick D. Priest of New York City on July 7, 1817. The wedding was performed by Rev. John Reed D.D. at Christ's Church in Poughkeepsie.

(14). Each of David Brooks' fellow commissioners were prominent men who had also served on the patriotic side during the Revolutionary War. John Cantine was Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Ulster County militia between the years 1778 and 1781. Philip Schuyler was appointed major general at the beginning of the war and commanded the Northern Department until August 1777. Later he became an important New York statesman.
John Richardson was a lieutenant from Pennsylvania and was captured with David Brooks at Fort Washington in 1776.

(15). There were three sessions held during the Fifth Congress. They were:
First Session - May 15, 1797 to July 10, 1797
Second Session - November 13, 1797 to July 16, 1798
Third Session - December 3, 1798 to March 3, 1799.

David Brooks' boardinghouse addresses in Philadelphia while in Congress were:
First Session - 9 North 6th Street
Second Session - Unrecorded
Third Session - 71 South 5th Street

(16). David Brooks was Clerk of Dutchess County from:
June 5, 1807 to January 25, 1809;
February 9, 1810 to February 14, 1811;
February 23, 1813 to February 13, 1815.

(17). In the year (1837) before his death he is listed as an Inspector with an annual compensation of $1095.

(18). David Brooks' death certificate, held in the New York City Municipal Archives, states that he died from "old age."

(19). There are two Marble Cemeteries, located near each other and both founded in 1832 in the East Village. The New York City Marble Cemetery, located at Second Street between First and Second Avenues, does not list David Brooks as a vault owner. The New York Marble Cemetery, on Second Avenue is likely to be David Brooks' resting place. However, this cemetery's records are not easily accessible and the headstones have been destroyed by vandalism. Neither Marble Cemetery has been used for many years.

(20) "Thomas Machin - Patriot", *The Colonial Newsletter,* November 1983. "James Giles - Machin's Mills Partner", *The Colonial Newsletter,* May 1986.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Four years have past since I started my research the life of David Brooks. I quickly found that even though David Brooks was a prominent politician of his day, he has been virtually forgotten by historians. At most he is remembered by only one paragraph in the various pertinent histories, and this information often contains errors. Thus, I had to learn the ways of a genealogist. As a result, the majority of the biographical information contained within this article is derived from primary sources.

Along the way I was assisted by many people. I wish to recognize the following people without whom this article could not have been written:

Betsy Calhoun, Senate House, Kingston, N.Y.
Mary Carey, reference librarian of the New- York Historical Society
Jane Adams Clarke, professional genealogist from Philadelphia, PA.
Gerda W. DuPilka, Dutchess County Historical Society
Ellen H. Fladger, Union College Schaffer Library
Karen Holtzman, The National Portrait Gallery
Dr. Edward B. Jakubauskas, President of the State University College at Geneseo,N.Y.
Robert C. Kennedy, President of the New York City Marble Cemetery
John D. Kilbourne, Society of the Cincinnati
Charles J. Miller, Oneida Historical Society
William Wade, professional genealogist from Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

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(6). Kennedy, Lawrence F. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1971,* 1971.

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(9). National Archives. Pension file (W23,711; BLWT 1909- 200) on David Brooks. This file contains several pension related letters and documents which provide important genealogical information.

(10). New-York Historical Society. The Alexander McDougall papers. During the Revolutionary War General McDougall was the commanding officer in the Hudson Highlands (West Point) for a period of time while David Brooks was serving as Assistant Clothier General. Within McDougall's papers there are a few clothing department documents signed by David Brooks.

(11). New York State Library, Albany, N.Y. New York Assembly Journals (microfiche) for the years 1787, 1788, 1794, and 1795.

(12). Platt. *History of Poughkeepsie.*

(13). Schuyler, John. *Society of the Cincinnati in New York.*

(14). Smith, James H. *History of Duchess County,* 1882.

(15). Society of the Cincinnati. The headquarters office in Washington, D. C. possesses two letters written by David Brooks to the New York Chapter. The letters, dated November 24, 1828 and April 1, 1829, are concerned with David Brooks' military service and his efforts to obtain a pension from the U. S. Government for his services during the Revolutionary War.

(16). Union College, Schenectady, New York. They have compiled a large file of biographical information on David Brooks' son James Gordon Brooks.